

This letter is printed in W. H. Ireland's "Scribblemania" 1815.

AUTOGRAPH.

Charpentier, L. A.

Born _____

Died _____

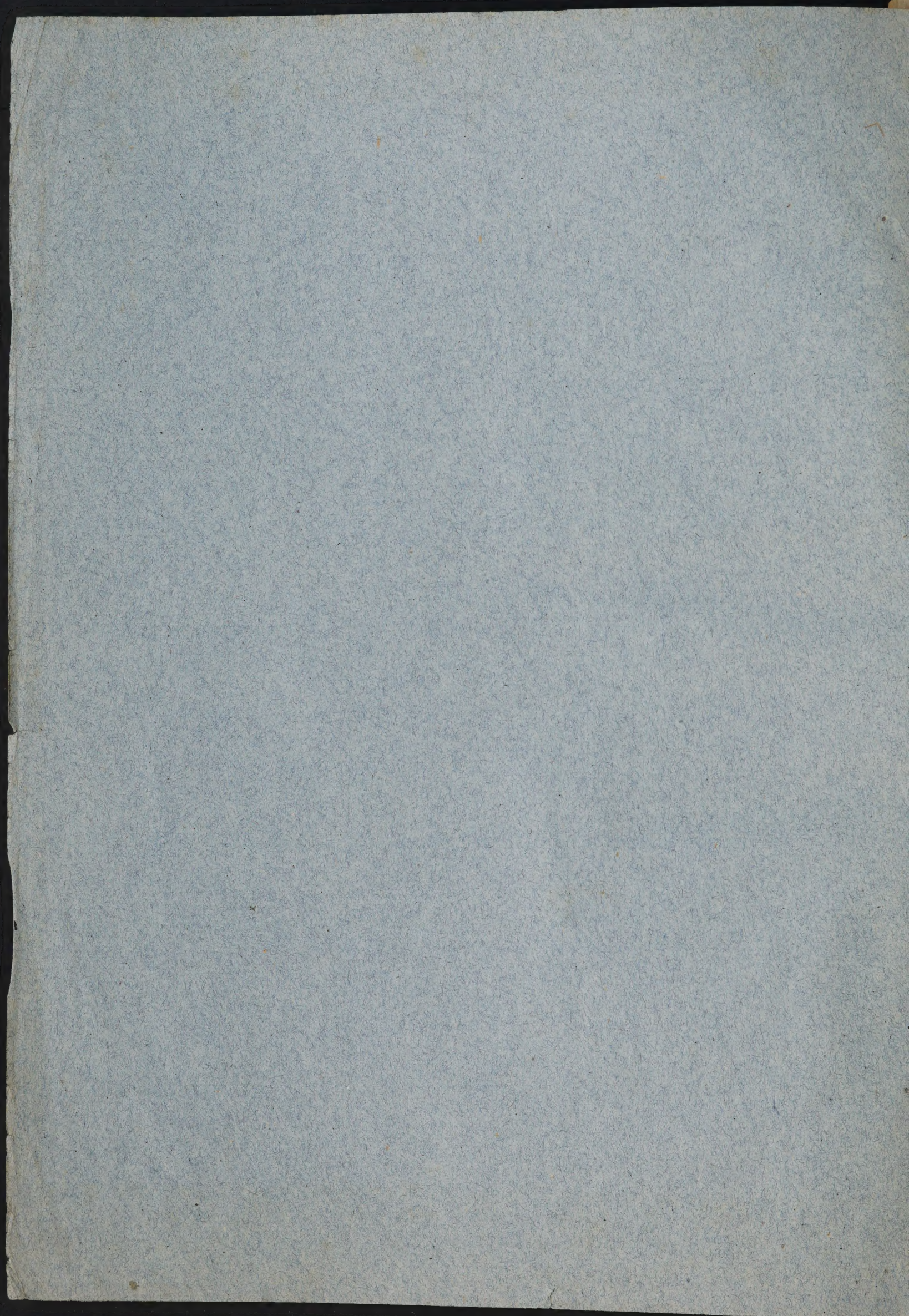
a. l. s. 1811

sculptor

to W. H. Ireland respecting proposed translation of Lucian Bonaparte's
"Charlemagne"

G-42

232



Thorn-grove near Worcester.
8th Dec^r 29th 1811.

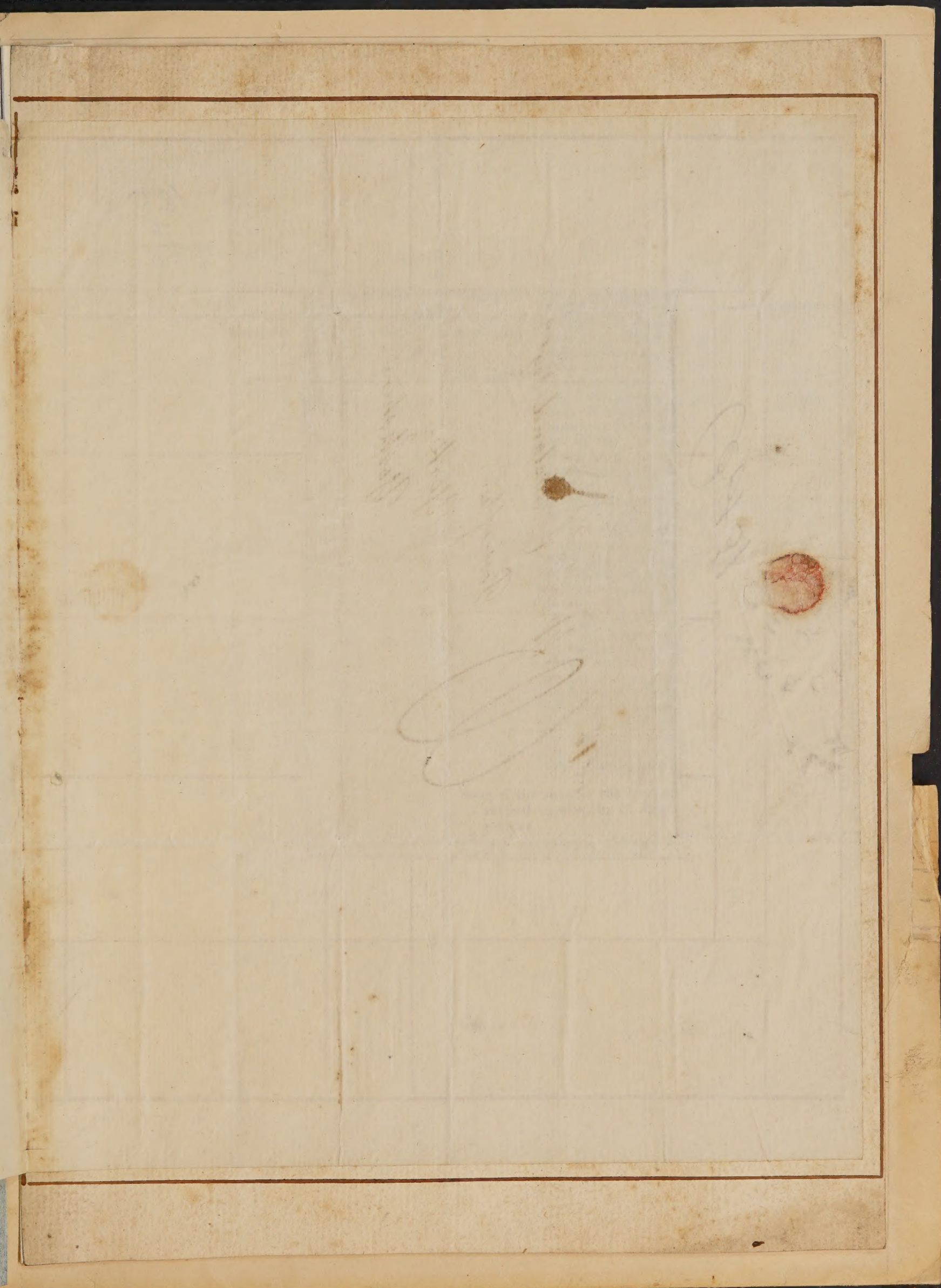
Sir,

Before he had received your letter, Mr. Lucien Bonaparte was acquainted with your name & some of your very valuable literary productions; he has not as yet made up his mind about a translation of his poems, ~~the publisher~~ the publisher of which will be Mr. Miller of Abbeville Street, & he will be also intrusted with the care of any thing belonging to the translation of it if any is ever made with the author's approbation. It was thro' the public papers we heard for the first time of the proposed translation, they have so much ~~disseminated~~ without our knowledge spoken of.

I have the honor to be
Sir

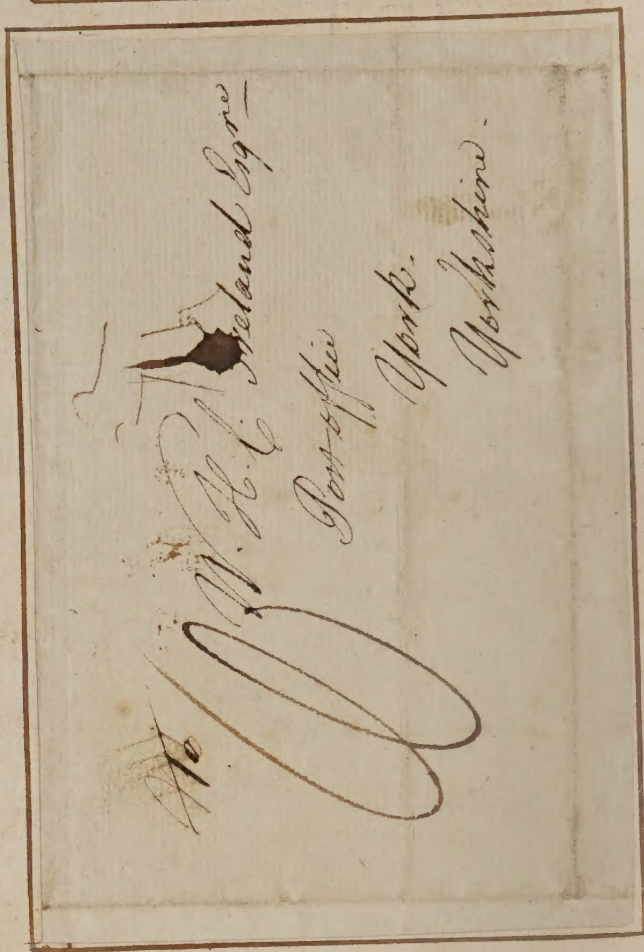
Your most obed^t servant

L. M. Harpenter



LUCIEN BONAPARTE'S Poem is now in the press.
It begins thus.

"Les soldats Bizantins campent aux pieds des murs ;"
and treats of the achievements of CHARLEMAGNE.—
The stanza is of the above measure in every verse except one, which is short. Each stanza contains ten lines; there are seventy stanzas to every canto; and the cantos amount in number to twenty-two, which makes the whole poem consist of fifteen thousand four hundred verses. LUCIEN has sold it; and, ambitious to have it translated into English, he has, through the bookseller, made an overture to Mr. CAMPBELL, the author of "The Pleasures of Hope," to undertake it for a remuneration of 2000*l*.—



CHARLEMAGNE; *St*

ROME DELIVERED; an Epic Poem, in Twenty-four Cantos, by LUCIEN BONAPARTE. Superbly printed in Two Volumes Imperial 4to. with Plates, now engraving in the best manner by Charles Heath.

* The Subject of the Poem is the deliverance of Rome, from the Lombards, by Charlemagne, and the establishment of the second Western Empire. With this, the Author has mixed a description of the warlike exploits of Charlemagne against the Saxons and Huns, a representation of the Heathen Worship of the Saxons, and the conversion to the Christian Faith of their leader, Witikind, who is regarded in History as the ancestor of the third Dynasty of French kings. The excesses of the Greek Iconoclasts, the civil and military habits of the Moors in Spain, and the achievements of Roland, and other Knights, are likewise introduced into the Work.

The machinery of the Poem has nothing in it of Pagan Mythology, but is founded entirely on the Catholic Creed. All the principal ceremonies of that religion are successively introduced into the course of the narrative, and made subservient to its development.

The Poem is of considerable length, and is divided into twenty-four Cantos. Its composition, and the prosecution of the various studies connected with it, have formed the chief occupation of the Author during eight years which have elapsed since he retired from public life. They continue to engage him at present, and it is hoped, that many months will not elapse before the Manuscript is brought into a fit state for the Press.

A Poetical Translation in English will accompany the French Original.

W. H. Ireland in his *Scribbleomania* 1815" writes as follows—"Some short time back it was expected that a very elaborate poem, on the subject of Charlemagne's, would have issued from the British press, concerning a translation of which the diurnal papers regularly teemed. To prove how ever how far such assertions were correct, the writer of the present note subjoins a letter written in reply to one forwarded to L. Bonaparte by a gentleman desirous of undertaking the translation, which will sufficiently demonstrate how far any credit is to be placed on the statements made in the London newspapers."

(Here follows a copy of the letter the original of which is attached hereto. G. H. L.)

"* Since this note was written the work has appeared accompanied by a translation.

Times 5th January 1811.

We are sorry to observe, and have long had thoughts of censuring, that lamentable want of true English feeling, which is evinced in the preposterous attentions paid to LUCIEN BUONAPARTE, since his arrival in this kingdom. It is really disgraceful to our national character, that people of rank should be seen thus truckling to the brother of the most treacherous and bloody tyrant that ever disgraced humanity; and so truckling, too, for no other reason than because he is his brother—the brother of the most rooted enemy of English freedom and happiness. But LUCIEN, it may be said, is not to blame for NAPOLEON's villany: certainly not; but neither is he to be honoured for it. And what else is the occasion of the honours he has received? He has, we believe, been driven to seek a refuge here, from the malignity of the tyrant; so have others, of higher pretensions than LUCIEN BUONAPARTE naturally possesses, who yet have not found Earls' houses consigned to them for a residence. Motives of humanity dictate, and we were the first to inculcate them, that he should find a safe asylum among us, while he conducts himself properly; but here the matter should end. He has the means of procuring himself all the comforts of life: how he obtained these means, it is, perhaps, not for us to enquire; but he should certainly be left to the spontaneous application of them in his own way, without being thus elevated above the heads of respectable Englishmen. We will, in fact, deny the possibility of pointing out any motive for the homage which is paid him, but that he is BUONAPARTE's brother. The flattery, is therefore, essentially directed to BUONAPARTE himself: and so it will be esteemed, if ever the *Moniteur* speaks of the treatment of LUCIEN in this country: it will infer, we have no question, how ripe we are for the reception of him who is the sole origin of this man's consequence among us.

Madame LUCIEN BUONAPARTE, with her family, and a numerous train of servants, occupying in all four carriages, arrived at Ludlow on Wednesday; having performed the journey from Plymouth in a week. LUCIEN removed on the preceding day from the Inn, to Lord Powis's residence in that town, called Dinham-house; his Lordship's seat in the neighbourhood (Stone-house) being found too small for the reception of so numerous a suite. It is believed, they will remain at Ludlow during several months.

Song of Solomon in the Yorkshire dialect, from the authorised revised version, by C. Rogers, etc. *uncut, only 250 copies printed* n. d.

* * Note on wrapper: "The 4 versions of the Song of Solomon were given to me by Prince Louis Lucien Buonaparte (at whose cost they were made in 1866).—A. J. Munby."

39 Books.—Collins (V.) Attempt at a Catalogue of the Library of Prince Louis-Lucien Bonaparte, 4to, wrapps., 5s 1894

Morning Post 11th January 1811.

LUCIEN BUONAPARTE.

ANECDOTE OF BRITISH SAILORS.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER, DATED MALTA, NOV. 7. 1810

The detention of LUCIEN BUONAPARTE in this country must have surprised you in England. I have just parted from Captain BARRIE, of the *Pomone*, who took him. He furnished me with many interesting details of the transaction; many of which have doubtless ere this reached you; but there is one anecdote so truly characteristic of a real Tar, that I feel a pleasure in repeating it, even should you have already learnt it; for the trait is at once so noble and liberal in every point of view, that I am most anxious that all the world should know our sailors to be as generous as they are brave. As there had been some probability of the *Pomone* detaining the American ship he was in, some days before it actually happened, Capt. BARRIE made it known to his Officers, that if such an event took place, he should relinquish his claim to any share of the property, and hoped they would do the same, which they instantly concurred in. Capt. B. not wishing by his interference to overawe the ship's company, desired his 1st Lieut. to state the case, and demand their answer. A little hesitation of speech ensued but, none of mind: at last one of the leading men, the Captain of the hold, perceiving none about to reply, stepped forward, and said, "You will please to tell his Honour, that it is our opinion, we should not share for any property we don't fight for."

Afterwards, on their arrival at Malta, LUCIEN sent a draft of 200 guineas to the ship's company as an acknowledgment of the trouble they had experienced on his account; they declined the offer; when it was again presented with the signature of Madame LUCIEN BUONAPARTE as a greater inducement, they returned it in a letter, a copy of which, I fear, has not been kept. It began, "Dear Madam," and proceeded to explain that the motives which prevented their acceptance, did not proceed from any animosity, but from not considering themselves entitled to their bounty; that so far from having any personal dislike either to him or his wife and children, they should always wish them happiness, and be glad to drink their health in any manner they thought proper. A plentiful supply of porter was then distributed to them, which pleased the "Jack Tars" much better than the greatest riches LUCIEN could have bestowed on them.

Gen's. Mag. Dec. 1810

Dec. 18. Lucien Buonaparte, his family, and suite, landed this afternoon at the Victualling Office, Plymouth, having been brought from the President frigate in the Admiral's cutter, and proceeded to the King's Arms Inn in carriages, accompanied by Sir R. Calder the Port Admiral, Gen. England, Lord Boringdon, and several Naval and Military Officers.

LUCIEN BUONAPARTE.

M. Lucien Buonaparte, who left his seat in Worcestershire in the early part of last week, with the permission of the British Government, to proceed to Rome, landed at Rotterdam on Wednesday. He was accompanied by an Italian Ecclesiastic and two servants. He made some visits to persons to whom he had letters. He wished to be unknown; but being recognized, he endeavoured to avoid the troublesome crowds that curiosity and his name soon set on foot to get a sight of him. He made inquiries respecting all the members of his family, and appeared anxious to learn, by his own research and investigation, the opinions and feelings really entertained respecting them. His mother was, in a special manner, the object of his solicitude; and he was greatly pleased when he ascertained that she had gone to Rome. The Old Lady is understood to have amassed a large fortune during the few years of her Dowager Imperiality. She was extremely parsimonious; and always foreseeing the reverse of the preternatural fortune of her son Napoleon, she vested her savings chiefly in diamonds, as being the most secure and portable medium for conveying her wealth into foreign countries, in the event

Gen's. Mag. January 1813

LUCIEN BUONAPARTE is revising his poem of "Charlemagne, or Rome Delivered," to bring it into a fit state for the press. A Poetical Translation in English will accompany the original French.



THE CAMP AT CHOBHAM.—VISIT OF PRINCE LUCIEN BONAPARTE, probably nephew of the Emperor.

Illustrated London News. July 9th 1853.

Gent's Mag. June 1818

It is not generally known that some curious Memoirs of LUCIEN BUONAPARTE were printed in 1815; but, when they were nearly ready, obstacles to their appearance arose, the publication was suspended, and the impression was eventually burnt. A London Bookseller, however, has lately obtained possession of a copy; and the work will shortly be presented to the publick.

Gent's Mag. April 1811.

LUCIEN BUONAPARTE, now resident in this country, has nearly completed for the press an Epic Poem of considerable length, and divided into 24 cantos, intitled "Charlemagne; or, Rome delivered." Its composition, and the prosecution of the various studies connected with it, have formed the chief occupation of the Author during seven years which have elapsed since he retired from public life.

SATURDAY,

Which being, as usual, a parliamentary holiday, a large number of the members of both Houses visited the Camp. The day was also distinguished by the attendance of the Prince Lucien Bonaparte; the Duc de Montebello, Aide-de-Camp to the Emperor; and other eminent officers representing the various branches of the French military service. This remarkable and brilliant body of visitors added considerably, by their display of costume, to the pictorial effect of the scene; and they seemed to evince the greatest interest in the evolutions of the British troops. Lord Hardinge was present, and accompanied the French visitors during the greater part of the day. The command of the troops was entirely in the hands of Lieut.-General Lord Seaton. About eleven o'clock the troops were paraded in point of their several encampments. The cavalry were the first to move in masses of columns, decreasing their front as they approached the little bridge on the right, adjoining Colonel Challoner's demesne. The Horse Artillery proceeded along the northern height, and took up its position near the cavalry. The infantry corps, with the Rifles in front, assembled in contiguous column in the centre. The Guards followed in columns on the right of the Rifles. The field-batteries occupied the extreme left.

The Farington Diary

Feby. 6th 1811. Mr Mackenzie who went from Plymouth to Ludlow with Lucien Buonaparte - the latter admired the country he passed through and Mackenzie thought him a very sensible man and had much conversation about characters which took an active part in the French Revolution. Lucien is employed on a Poem, the Subject - "The Restoration of Rome under Charlemagne" which is far advanced towards completion and Mackenzie thought what he saw of it, very well done -

Madame Lucien Buonaparte is a daughter of Monsieur Blanchard who was a Commissary at L'Orient. She is an agreeable woman. When owing to his marriage with Madame Joubert, Lucien Buonaparte (1775-1846) became estranged from his brother, the Emperor, he retired to his estates in Italy in 1804 and refused the Crown of that Country after the Peace of Tilsit. In 1810 he set out for America, but was captured by a British Cruiser and kept a prisoner in England until 1814.

The Morning Post on his arrival read "Let him enjoy on British ground, British hospitality and British liberty

as far as is consistent with prudence and policy. Since 1804 all confidence has ceased between him and Napoleon, with whose species he has been encompassed.

These not only reported his actions but intercepted his letters, so that he knows less about modern France than we do.